

JENNIFER GIVHAN

## Miscarriage Interpreted through Animal Science

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After mating & laying her eggs,  
the octopus with a brain the size of a clementine

goes senile. She welds herself into  
a cracked teapot she'd grown fond of

then dries up. Researchers find her yards from her tank  
finally still after days of odd behavior.

What size was her heart?  
That's not what we mean of course but the neurons

in her arms as if each had its own brain—  
when cut, will regrow. When cut,

will continue searching for food then surrender  
prey to mouth as if the mouth were still attached

& still I lie on my side instead of my belly, pillow  
between my legs. This is more than phantom limb

as the octopus must know.

What is it like to be an octopus?

What I'm asking is how we carry on.

*Sugar House Review, 2015*